Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07271 081324Z ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3512 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

SECRETTEL AVIV 7271

EXDIS -- DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: DAYAN'S FUTURE IN THE GOVERNMENT

REF: CAIRO 14451 (NOTAL)

1. WE DOUBT THAT RECENT SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE DAYAN RESIGNATION FOLLOWING END OF CABINET DISCUSSIONS ON U.S. QUESTIONS HAS MUCH BASIS IN FACT. HOWEVER, DAYAN IS A MERCURIAL MAN AND WE HAVE SCRUPULOUSLY STAYED AWAY FROM THE MAJOR ISRAELI ACTORS IN THIS DRAMA IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE U.S. WAS CRUDELY TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE CABINET DICISION. EVEN SO, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE DIVISIONS BETWEEN DAYAN AND BEGIN ARE SO SHARP THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT ACTUALLY CONSIDER LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THEM. MOREOVER, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED HERE THAT DAYAN'S CURRENT JOB MAY WELL BE HIS LAST HURRAH AND THAT HE COULD PROBABLY NOT HOPE TO PARLAY A DRAMATIC DEPARTURE FROM THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT INTO A MAJOR POSITION IN ANY NEW COALITION OF THE CENTER WHICH MIGHT BE SUBSEQUENTLY FORMED. FINALLY, OLDTIME DAYAN WATCHERS POINT OUT THAT IN THE CLUTCH HE HAS NEVER FOUGHT FOR HIS PRINCIPLES TO THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 07271 081324Z

END. IN A LONG AND TUMULTOUS POLITICAL CAREER, MOSHE DAYAN HAS SOMETIMES WALKED TO THE BRINK OF MAJOR CONFRONTATION WITH HIS PRIME MINISTER. UNTIL NOW, HE HAS NEVER JUMPED. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, CABINET MEETINGS, CAT-B

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV07271
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: EXDIS DIST AS NODIS

Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: P840157-2328

Format: TEL

From: TEL AVIV Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780679/aaaacqht.tel

Line Count: 60 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 27fcc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NODS

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 CAIRO 14451

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 09 jun 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2427327 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DAYAN\'S FUTURE IN GOVERNMENT TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IS, (DAYAN, MOSHE)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27fcc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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